

PFLAG Phoenix Newsletter

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Greetings!

March is known as the month that comes in like a lion, and out like a lamb. Where did that saying come from? People often believed that bad spirits could affect the weather adversely so they were cautious as to what they did or did not do in certain situations. Those beliefs often included ideas that there should be a balance in weather and life. So, if a month came bad (like a lion), it should go out good and calm (like a lamb).

Speaking of MARCH: save the date to MARCH with us in the upcoming Phoenix Pride parade on Sunday, **April 3rd!** This is such a fun event and should not be missed by any PFLAG member. More details about the Gay Pride Parade can be found [here](#).

We love our volunteers! If you'd like to know more about ways you can help our chapter, email us at info@pflagphoenix.org or check out our [volunteer page](#) on the website for ways you can help.

Don't forget to "like" our [Facebook page](#) if you haven't yet!

Sincerely,

PFLAG Phoenix
602.843.1404

Announcing: Our PFLAG Phoenix Scholarship Winners!

This year, PFLAG Phoenix is awarding a total of \$2,000 in scholarships to two outstanding students. All of our scholarships are open to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) individuals and to straight allies who have directly supported GLBT youth and/or the GLBT community.

And now to our two amazing winners this year. Our first winner, Caroline Frieders, also known as Carly, is a straight ally. Carly is from Sahuarita, AZ and she will receive \$1,000.00 from the scholarship fund. Carly is a board member of GLSEN Tucson and has been since 2012. She has a long history of volunteering her services to the LGBT community as an ally! Carly would like to be a public service attorney and work one day with a non-profit or provide legal services to vulnerable populations!

Our second winner is Chandler L. Barteau, who will get the other \$1,000.00. Chandler lives in Oro Valley, AZ and has attended Ironwood Ridge High School. His major is Psychological Sciences and he wants to become a licensed counselor and work in Arizona. He'd like to focus on family studies and possibly sex therapy. He hopes to one day have his own practice.



Please join us at our Central Phoenix meeting on Monday, March 21st at 7pm for the presentation of the awards to these two amazing and very deserving students.



March support meetings

Friday	March 4	7:00pm-8:30pm	Tempe
Tuesday	March 8	6:30pm-7:30pm	Native American
Wednesday	March 9	2:00pm-3:30pm	Beatitudes Campus
Thursday	March 10	7:00pm-8:30pm	North Scottsdale
Monday	March 21	7:00pm-9:00pm	Central Phoenix
Friday	March 25	7:00pm-8:30pm	Fountain Hills

Check out [our website](#) for more information on the meetings and how to get there.

How can YOU contribute at a PFLAG support meeting?

Well there are so many ways to contribute, but today we will focus on one valuable way you can make a BIG difference. The following is an excerpt from an essay posted on [our website](#):

Ever see someone enter a PFLAG meeting and you know instantly they are a first-timer, but you don't know how to approach them? Some support groups have official "Greeters", but actually, we ALL should consider ourselves "Greeters". I think we can all remember when we were that person who was entering the support group for the first time. We can remember that fear of not knowing anyone, or not being sure we even wanted to be there, or how we felt about baring our souls to strangers, or the doubts we had about whether even being there was going to help or not.

Just having one person come up to us and say "Welcome to PFLAG" means so much and begins the process of melting away many of those fears. And if that Greeter takes their welcome to the next level and says, "Let me show you our library table. If you'd like to check out a book or a video to take home, you do not have to be a paying member to do so. Just bring it back the next time you return" or, "Here is a name tag, if you'd put it on, it makes it easier for us all", or "Do you have someone close to you who is LGBTQ?" You could even ask if it is their first time at the meeting, and if they say "Yes this is my first meeting", you can respond by reminding them that everyone at the meeting has also had that first meeting at some point. You can also reassure that person that everyone is friendly and knows what they are going through because just about everyone there at the meeting "has been there too". It is also important that we assure our new attendee that PFLAG meetings are totally confidential and free of judgment. And this is usually when you start to see some relief appear in their eyes. The bottom line is we all like it when someone comes up to us, introduces themselves, pinpoints and directly addresses some of our fears. There is nothing

worse than feeling alone, isolated, and ignored. We all need to feel like someone cares about us and understands what we are going through. No one wants to

feel like they've just walked into a big "CLIQUE".

[Continue reading essay ...](#)

For more ways you can help, please visit [the volunteer page](#) on our website.



April 28th is Dining Out For Life

On Thursday, April 28, 2016, be fabulous by grabbing your friends and eating out at one of our participating restaurants. Whether it's breakfast, lunch or dinner, let's make Dining Out For Life 2016 a delicious DAY, just by doing what we love to do most - dine out!

A percentage of proceeds from all participating DOFL restaurants from that stuffed full night will be donated to Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS in the metropolitan Phoenix Arizona area and Northland Cares in the Prescott Arizona area.

More information on participating restaurants can be found [here](#).



**We need volunteers to staff a booth at the PRIDE Festival!
Can you help?**



PFLAG Phoenix has not had a booth at the Phoenix Pride Festival for at least the last three years, primarily due to a lack of volunteers. But this year our Board of Directors took a leap of faith and voted to have a booth at the Festival this year. So we are putting out the call

volunteer, please email us at info@pflagphoenix.org or sign up at a support meeting.

In addition to the Festival, next month we also have the Phoenix Gay Pride Parade on Sunday morning, April 3rd. The stepping off time for the parade is 10:00 am at 3rd Street and Thomas. We may have two vehicles in our walking contingent, so about five persons may ride all, or part way, if needed. Water will be provided. More details about the parade can be found [here](#).

PFLAG Phoenix Board of Directors meeting



Our chapter's Board of Directors meets on the second Saturday of the odd months, from 10:00am to noon. Meetings are held in office space that is generously donated to us by [Plaza Executive Suites](#) at the Biltmore Office Plaza which is located at 2942 N. 24th St (Suite 114), Phoenix, AZ 85016.

Our next board meeting will be Saturday, March 12th. It starts promptly at 10:00am. Directions can be found [here](#).

Board meetings are open to anyone that would like to sit in. We welcome visitors! Anyone interested in getting more involved with PFLAG Phoenix is encouraged to attend and check us out! Get more information [here](#).

Phoenix-based LGBTQ advocacy group is closing down



H.E.R.O. (Human and Equal Rights Organizers), a Phoenix based LGBTQ advocacy group, has announced it is closing down. Formed eight years ago with a mission to create all-inclusive coalitions to secure equal rights through service, action, visibility and education in local communities throughout Arizona, a signature HERO event was a "walk for marriage equality" with volunteers walking 100 miles in August across much of Arizona to meet with community leaders and talk about why marriage equality is important. PFLAG Phoenix joined HERO in several advocacy and education moments during the past several years. Their final event is a Trans*Celebration Brunch that will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 17th at Harley's Italian Bistro, 4221 N. 7th Avenue in Phoenix. Funds raised will benefit Julian Melson, the first recipient of the Julian Melson Trans*Scholarship Fund, created to assist local Trans* individuals.

For tickets, visit [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and search "HERO Phoenix."

News and Notes

- ***The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence*** are planning a gong karaoke event at Kobalt Bar which will benefit PFLAG Phoenix. The event is on Saturday, April 9th from 3-6pm and the Kobalt Bar is located at 3110 N Central Ave #125. Gong karaoke is similar to normal karaoke, the only difference is people can donate money to either gong someone off stage so they can sing or pay to keep singing. On top of that there will be a 50/50 raffle as well.



- New molecular scissors **cut out lingering HIV**-maybe once and for all
- **Bittersweet victory**: By a vote of 173-71, Italian Senate approves civil unions for same-sex couples - but not adoptions. The bill now moves to the House of Deputies where easy passage is expected.
- The outgoing Catholic president of Portugal **struck down** a law allowing gay couples to be given adoption rights saying that welfare of children takes priority. Fortunately, Portugal lawmakers **overturned the veto**.
- Texas Prisons **Expand Hormone Therapy Treatment** To More Transgender Inmates Following Confirmation by the Department of Justice That Denying Hormone Therapy For Transgender People In Prison Is Cruel And Unusual Punishment.
- Lawmakers In Florida And Georgia **Reject LGBT Protections**. Georgia Rep Tom Weldon (R) opposed the change, claiming, "Those who get bullied usually are the ones that end up doing well on down the road in life." Florida Sen. Wilton Simpson (R) expressed concerns about "weirdos doing weird things in public bathrooms with men or women."
- Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton **Faces Ethics Probe**: Already indicted on felony securities fraud charges, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton will face an ethics investigation for advising local officials they could refuse to issue same-sex marriage license on religious grounds.
- The Virginia Senate approved a bill which allows government employees **to refuse to marry same-sex couples**. The bill now heads to the House of Delegates where Republicans hold a 2-1 majority.
- How Will The Supreme Court Shake-Up **Impact The Future Of LGBT Rights?**
- Charlotte (North Carolina) City Council **approves LGBT protections** in 7-4 vote with the strong support of newly-elected Mayor Jennifer Roberts, who has been a leading voice for the ordinance in her campaign and since she's taken office. But North Carolina House Speaker **considers special session to overturn Charlotte's LGBT rights law**, specifically a provision that would allow transgender people to use the restroom of their choice.
- Social media giant Facebook has **waded into the divisive same-sex marriage debate** in an unprecedented partnership with Australian marriage equality advocates. They will give its 14 million Australian users the option of adding an Australian Marriage Equality banner to their profile pictures, in what AME hopes will demonstrate "the mainstream support" for the reform.